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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/771,543	02/05/2004	Kenneth Jacobs	081589-0307593	2808
909	7590	08/22/2006	EXAMINER	
PILLSBURY WINTHROP SHAW PITTMAN, LLP			REDMAN, JERRY E	
P.O. BOX 10500			ART UNIT	
MCLEAN, VA 22102			PAPER NUMBER	
			3634	

DATE MAILED: 08/22/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/771,543

Applicant(s)

JACOBS, KENNETH

Examiner

Jerry Redman

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 March 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2-4, 6-13 and 15-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2-4, 6-13, and 15-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

The Examiner would like to apologize to the applicant for the last non-responsive action. The applicant is correct with respect to the amendments being proper.

The status of the claims is as follows:

Claims 1, 5, and 14 have been cancelled; and

Claims 2-4, 6-13, and 15-23 are herein addressed below.

Claims 2-4, 6-8, and 15-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In claim 15, line 11, and claim 17, line 9, the phraseology "low friction" is not readily understood by the Examiner.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 2-4, 6-8, 15, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Farris et al. As shown in Figure 3, Farris et al. disclose a wheel guide assembly for a sliding door (12) comprising a mounting structure (72) with a body portion (the portion to the left) and a top portion (70) having at least one axle with a longitudinal axis with a flat non-cylindrical surface, at least one wheel (48) having a hub opening portion (the inner surface) and an outer tire surface portion and the at least

one wheel (48) is rotatably mounted to the at least one axle and guided within a track (50) such tolerances between the wheel (48) and the door (12) are taken up by the ellipsoidal shape axle as the wheel is guided within the track (50).

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.


Claims 9-13, 16, and 18-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Farris et al. in view of Gehrke. All of the elements of the instant invention are discussed in detail above except providing a central portion of the wheel with a plurality of fingers that engage the axle. Gehrke disclose a mounting structure (12) with a central opening for an axle having a plurality of fingers. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide the wheel opening of Farris et al. with a plurality of fingers as taught by Gehrke since the plurality of fingers allows the axle to be more easily attached and removed without damaging the axle or structure mounted thereto.

The applicant's arguments have been considered but are not deemed persuasive. With respect to the material of the hub, axle and wheel, the phraseology "low friction" is not readily understood by the Examiner as discussed in detail above. With respect to the 35 U.S.C. rejection, the applicant argues that there is no motivation

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to combine the flexible fingers of Gehrke with the device of Farris et al. The purpose of any flexible fingers and specifically flexible fingers which provide a mounting feature are well known in the fact of reducing pressure between two parts when attaching two parts/elements together. Although structural rigidity is sacrificed slightly, the convenience of attaching two elements together are easier.

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Jerry Redman at telephone number 571-272-6835.


Jerry Redman
Primary Examiner